IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing a plurality of sessions, the sessions being between a plurality of terminals and a server having a plurality of threads, the method comprising:

  grouping assigning the sessions into to a plurality of groups such that at least some of the groups have multiple sessions; and

  assigning a thread to each group of sessions so that the assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions; and

  sending events for any sessions assigned to a group to a corresponding assigned thread so that the corresponding assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which grouping assigning sessions occurs when a session is created.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which grouping assigning sessions occurs when a session becomes active.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which one group is provided for each thread so that there are equal numbers of groups and threads.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which sessions are assigned statically to particular groups and therefore to particular threads.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which assigning sessions further includes assigning a session ~~is put into~~to a first group in a first time period before suspension of the session and assigning the session ~~put into~~to a second group in a second time period following resumption of the session.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6 in which the second group is chosen on the basis of the relative levels of activity of the first and second groups.

8.   (Original) A method according to claim 6 in which the second group is chosen randomly.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which each group has a queue and each session assigned to a corresponding group ~~puts~~has its events put into that queue.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions are ~~grouped~~assigned to groups by a thread referred to as an acceptor thread.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 in which the acceptor thread calls a function which is answered by notification that a new session has been created and then assigns the new session to a particular ~~session~~group.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which at least some of the sessions remain open for an undetermined period of time until closed and are either inactive or active while open.

13.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the terminals comprise mobile terminals.

14.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 in which the terminals comprise cellular telephones.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 in which load balancing ~~means~~ is ~~included~~ performed when assigning the sessions~~in the assignment mechanism of the session~~.

16.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions involve obtaining information or conducting transactions through the Internet.

17.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 in which the sessions are part of the Wireless Session Protocol (WSP).

18.   (Currently Amended) A server for managing a plurality of sessions with a plurality of terminals, the server comprising a plurality of threads, ~~grouping~~ first assigning means ~~to group~~ for assigning the sessions ~~into~~ to a plurality of groups such that at least some of the groups have multiple sessions, ~~and~~ second assigning means ~~to assign~~ for assigning a thread to each group of sessions ~~so that the assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions~~, and means for sending events for any sessions assigned to a group to a corresponding assigned thread so that the corresponding assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions.

19.   (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 18 comprising a gateway server serving <u>sessions from</u> a plurality of mobile terminals.

20.   (Currently Amended) A server according to claim 19 comprising a <u>Wireless Application Protocol-Hypertext Transfer Protocol (WAP-HTTP)</u> gateway.

21.   (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a server and a plurality of terminals, the server and the terminals conducting a plurality of sessions, the server comprising a plurality of threads, ~~grouping~~ <u>first assigning</u> means ~~to group~~<u>for assigning</u> the sessions into a plurality of groups <u>such that at least some of the groups have multiple sessions, and</u> <u>second</u> assigning means ~~to assign~~<u>for assigning</u> at least one thread to each group of sessions ~~so that the assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions~~, and <u>means for sending events for any sessions assigned to a group to a corresponding assigned thread so that the corresponding assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions.</u>

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for managing a plurality of sessions, the sessions being between a plurality of terminals and a server having a plurality of threads, comprising:

        computer readable program means for ~~grouping~~<u>assigning</u> the sessions ~~into~~<u>to</u> a plurality of groups <u>such that at least some of the groups have multiple sessions</u>; ~~and~~

        computer readable program means for assigning a thread to each group of sessions ~~so that the assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions~~<u>; and</u>

        <u>computer readable program means for sending events for any sessions assigned to a group to a corresponding assigned thread so that the corresponding assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions.</u>

23. (New) A server according to claim 18 in which the first assigning means and the second assigning means are the same means.

24. (New) A server for managing a plurality of sessions between the server and a plurality of terminals, the server comprising at least one processor configured to create a plurality of threads in response to at least the sessions and to assign the sessions to a plurality of groups such that at least some of the groups have multiple sessions, the at least one processor configured to assign a thread to each group of sessions, and configured to send events for any sessions assigned to a group to a corresponding assigned thread so that the corresponding assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions.

25. (New) A server according to claim 24 in which the at least one processor is configured to assign a session to a first group in a first time period before suspension of the session and is configured to assign the session to a second group in a second time period following resumption of the session.

26. (New) A server according to claim 24 in which at least some of the sessions remain open for an undetermined period of time until closed and are either inactive or active while open.

27. (New) A computer program product for managing a plurality of sessions, the sessions being between a plurality of terminals and a server having a plurality of threads, the computer program product tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by at least one processor to perform operations comprising:

assigning the sessions to a plurality of groups such that at least some of the groups have multiple sessions;

assigning a thread to each group of sessions; and

sending events for any sessions assigned to a group to a corresponding assigned thread so that the corresponding assigned thread only handles the events of that group of sessions.

28. (New) A computer program product according to claim 27 in which the operation of assigning sessions further includes the operations of assigning a session to a first group in a first time period before suspension of the session and assigning the session to a second group in a second time period following resumption of the session.

29. (New) A computer program product according to claim 24 in which at least some of the sessions remain open for an undetermined period of time until closed and are either inactive or active while open.